



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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The following Decision is distributed for your information. This Decision has been made in consideration of the specific facts of this case. This Decision is not to be interpreted as establishing any new mandatory policy or procedure otherwise officially promulgated.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FINAL DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. HPW 10979-15 T.K.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C029201 (SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's sanction and termination of her Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency sanctioned and terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits because it determined that she had failed to comply with her WFNJ Supportive Assistance for Individuals and Families ("SAIF") program's individual responsibility plan ("IRP"), without good cause. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 14, 2015, the Honorable Bruce M. Gorman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On September 22, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner had participated in the SAIF program, and was required to comply with all work activities, as specified in her IRP. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-3 at 1, 2. The record also shows that Petitioner was sanctioned for failing to comply with the requirements of her SAIF program's IRP, when she repeatedly failed to attend her Workplus classes, as well as her assigned appointments with her Intensive Case Manager. See Initial Decision at 2, 3; see also Exhibit R-2 at 1. The ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to comply, without good cause, with the required work activities under her IRP. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.20(d). The ALJ further found that Petitioner had failed to comply, without good cause, with the SAIF program

requirements by the end of her suspension month. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.13(b)(1). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency had properly sanctioned and terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits because she had failed to cooperate with the WFNJ program requirements, without good cause. Ibid; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.13(b)(2).

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision and following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

OCT 26 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director